

Secretary's Report of the
SECOND CONFERENCE OF DEANS AND ADVISERS OF MEN.

Held at

The University of Illinois

February 20, 21, 1920.

(Copy found in Library of
The University of Wisconsin,
Madison, Wisconsin.)

The time chosen for the conference proved unfavorable, both because the beginning of the new semester is an exceedingly busy time in the offices of all deans and advisers of men and because of the "flu" epidemic which was present in many parts of the country and which had some effect upon the attendance.

The several institutions were represented as follows:

The University of Illinois

Dean T. A. Clark

The University of Indiana

Asst. Dean H. B. Garman

The University of Iowa

Dean Clarence Edmundson

The University of Kentucky

Professor H. L. Riets

The University of Michigan

Dean C. R. Melcher

The University of Minnesota

Professor L. A. Strauss

Purdue University

Dean R. E. Nicholson

The University of Wisconsin

Dean Stanley Coulter

Dean S. H. Goodnight

Deans Robert Rienow of Iowa, A. R. Warneck of Penn State College, and A. R. Priest of the University of Washington, as well as representatives who were to have been designated by several other institutions were unfortunately unable to be present.

Organization was effected Friday morning with S. H. Goodnight and L. A. Strauss of last year's conference as acting chairman and secretary respectively. It was moved and carried that the work of the conference should be regularly carried on by an executive committee of three members, viz., the chairman, to be elected annually, the secretary, to serve for three years, and a third member, to be chosen annually. The officers for the current year were then chosen, Dean T. A. Clark being elected chairman, Dean S. H. Goodnight secretary, and Dean Robert Rienow member of the executive committee (Prof. H. L. Riets to act for Dean Rienow in his absence.) The executive committee was commissioned to select the time and place for next year's meeting. Invitations were extended by the universities of Iowa, Kentucky and Purdue. At a subsequent session the committee recommended Iowa City as the place and late April or early May of 1921 as the time for the next meeting. Adopted.

The question as to what extent we shall attempt to increase the attendance at these meetings was introduced, but no decision was reached; the executive committee was instructed to exercise its own discretion in this matter for the coming year.

The following program which had been proposed for the meeting was then carried thru, Professor Riets presenting Dean Rienow's paper and Professor Strauss and Dean Clark leading in the discussion of the topics assigned to Dean Priest.

Friday, Feb. 20

9:30 A. M. Organization.

10 " " "The Fraternity Situation" by Dean Clark

11:15 " " "Results of a Survey of Health Supervision" by Dean Robt. Rienow

2:00 P. M. "Student Standards" by Dean Stanley Coulter

3:00 P. M. "Student Self Government" by Dean Nicholson.

Saturday, Feb. 21.

9:30 A. M. "The Housing Problem" by Dean A. R. Priest

10 " " "The Support of Student Activities" by Dean Nicholson

11 " " "Maintenance of Scholarship Standards" by Dean Rienow.

FRATERNITY PROBLEMS.

At the University of Illinois, all fraternities were taboo until 1891. Dean Clark has been continuously connected with the university since that date and has seen the founding of all organizations now in existence there. These total eighty organizations occupying separate houses. Forty-two of them are national social

fraternities.....(ONE PAGE MISSING IN ORIGINAL MINUTES CONTAINED IN THE VOLUME FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.)

Eclectic dancing, cigaret smoking among the women, pressure for later hours for dances, and booze smuggling are phases of this attempt to return to halcyon days of yore--as they are now conceived of.

The scholastic average of the fraternities has gone down badly. Last spring they were:

General average of whole student body	3.38
General average of all men students	3.23
General average of all frat men	3.02
Highest frat average	3.38
Lowest frat average	2.56

The sophomore class of the current academic year, which came in as freshman under the S. A. T. C. regime, is the worst class, in Dean Clark's opinion, the university has had in years. They have no discipline and don't want any. The casualties at the end of the first semester (Jan. 1920) were many.

The fraternities are very desirous of social activities, this year, and are restive under regulations. The rules in effect are: social functions may be held on Friday and Saturday nights only. Each organization may give not more than two parties in a given semester. Of the four given during a year, one may be a formal extending until two o'clock; all others must close at 12. Chaperones must be approved by the Dean of Women.

Last fall, Dean Clark sent to each fraternity chapter in the University a copy of the following letter:

Urbana, Illinois,
Nov. 20, 1920.

To fraternity Presidents:

I should like to present to you in writing as briefly as possible what at the meeting of fraternity presidents last night I said or suggested in regard to the present fraternity situation. I shall be obliged to you if, at the next regular meeting of your chapter, you would read this letter to the members assembled.

I want to make it clear at the outset that I have the utmost friendliness toward fraternities. No one in this institution has stood for them more strongly than I have. I believe on the whole that they are a good thing, and that we should be badly handicapped without them.

The fraternity men went into the war in proportionately greater numbers than did other college men. This left the fraternities, for the last two years at least, without proper management and without proper control. Fraternities have not taught their men self discipline. They have disciplined them, or attempted to do so with a rather rigid hand. The underclassman in fraternities has not been taught to express an opinion, to direct his own activities, nor has he been allowed to do so. The low scholarship of fraternity freshmen at the present time is largely because freshmen are not permitted to study in fraternity houses. They are made the servants and the errand boys of every other man in the house whether they have work to do or not. It is no wonder that their scholarship is low. When the war came on, fraternities had few men to exercise discipline over the underclassmen, and the underclassmen exercised very little over themselves. The result is that the present junior and sophomore class are undisciplined; they are the loafers of the college.

There is a growing sentiment against fraternities all over the country among men who do not belong to these organizations. There is a growing opposition to them among the public in general and among the members of state legislatures. There is some reason for this. The scholarship of fraternity men has been low, considerably lower in fact, than that of the average man in college. Fraternity social activities have been increased. It is the fraternity men who do a large percentage of the dancing that is done in college and who are clamoring for more opportunity to dance.

Fraternity men are spending money unduly and selfishly. They are selfish in their social activities also, and a man outside of the fraternity has little opportunity unless he is unusually aggressive, for social pleasure or social preferment.

This situation must change in this institution and all over the country or the fraternity will have to go. The scholarship of the fraternity must be brought up to the general college average or above it. Social activities must be curtailed. The extravagant expenditure of money must be reduced. The fraternity man must be more democratic and less selfish. His moral and social ideal must be raised. He must be less a loafer and more of a student.

This condition will not be brought about by the rigid discipline of freshmen alone, although that will help. The responsibility is upon the upperclassman to study as many hours a week and to be in his room as many hours a week as the freshman is required to be. He may lay down rules, but he must follow them himself. Until the upperclassmen will willingly set an example to the underclassmen of un-selfish good manners, of regular study, of respect for house rules, and a regard for high moral ideals, the fraternities are not going to improve. I want them very much to improve. I shall do anything in my power to bring about a better social, moral and intellectual condition here, and I ask for the earnest cooperation of every loyal fraternity man.

Very sincerely yours,

THOMAS ARKLE CLARK.

The effects of this letter and of other influences which have been brought to bear on the fraternity group, have undoubtedly been good. Dean Clark submitted the following:

RULES AS ADOPTED BY THE PAN HELLENIC COUNCIL OF THE UNIV. OF ILLINOIS.

1. The standard average for members of this council shall be 3:00 literal.
2. All members of the council failing to comply with the prescribed standard shall go on trial for the semester next following.
3. If at the end of the trial semester those members on trial fail to equal the required standard of scholarship, they shall be automatically suspended from this council and from all activities over which this council has control.
4. Any member so suspended for failure to comply with the fore-going regulations may be reinstated only upon written recommendation from the office of the Dean of Men, which recommendation shall state that the average of that fraternity for the previous semester equals the prescribed Pan-Hellenic standard.
5. All suspensions for failure to comply with the fore-going regulations shall be given full publicity.

There is no question in Dean Clark's mind that the fraternities are beginning to assume a less recalcitrant attitude and that they will eventually "come back" to a status fully as good as their ante-bellum condition.

In the informal discussion of Dean Clark's remarks, it developed that Iowa requires the chapter to maintain a certain average before it may initiate new men. Now that certain chapters have failed to meet the requirement, there is a great agitation to change the rule. (A set of resolutions which is up for adoption at Iowa has been received from Dean Bienen subsequent to our meeting. It shows a determination on the part of the Faculty to maintain the rule.) Iowa was the only institution represented which placed the requirement on the chapter instead of on the individual.

Indiana requires freshmen to pass all their hours in order to be eligible for initiation.

At Illinois he must be passed in 11 hours.

At Michigan the requirement is the same as at Illinois.

At Minnesota he must pass 75% of his work for one quarter.

At Kentucky he must make an average of C.

At Purdue he is eligible if he has no unsatisfied condition on his record.

At Wisconsin he is eligible if not on probation.

SURVEY OF HEALTH SUPERVISION SYSTEMS

HEALTH SUPERVISION IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

By Dean Robert Rienow
(Presented by Professor Reits)

In view of the inability of the writer to prepare the proper paper for presentation of a survey of health reports made by various universities a year ago, I am asking our representative, Professor Reits, to bring to you the report made by a committee appointed last year, of which the writer was chairman, to present this entire matter to the president of the Board of Education for consideration and action. The result of this report was the establishment of a student health fee, payable by each student at the University, \$1.75 per quarter, the establishment of a student health physician, together with a competent assistant, and also a practicing physician, a sanitary inspector and two nurses. There was also established a student dispensary open all day, to which students might come for examination, help, advice, or simple treatment.

This fee also entitled the student who was sick in his room to call the student health physician or his assistant for examination, simple treatment, or reference to the hospital. So far this fee has not entitled the student to hospital care. The student going to a hospital is still required to pay regular hospital charges, not including any charges for medical or surgical attention or medicine. These are, and always have been, free, even when given by the head of a department. For example, a student may be taken ill at his room. He calls the student health physician. An examination is made and the case is diagnosed as acute appendicitis. The student is immediately taken to the University hospital, put under the care of the head of the department of surgery. Either he or his immediate assistant performs the operation, the student is given his room in the hospital, the bill being simply for room service, that is room and board. It has frequently been the case that a student would come out of an operation of this kind for as low as \$20.00. The total hospital bill for 261 students for the year 1917 - 18 was \$6, 611.05. The average bill for men students was \$24.20 and for women students \$28.39.

We have, however, been met with the peculiar attitude, common I think to faculties of medical colleges or of some departments in these colleges, who feel that the student who comes to a University is simply a citizen and therefore that the college of Medicine, or its hospital, are under no obligation or responsibility to treat him other than as a citizen. May I say in this connection that as a result of the survey made of about sixty of the leading institutions there was a growing feeling that the institution was responsible in a very large degree, not only for the care of the student when sick, but in maintaining proper health conditions while he was well.

Large programs for caring for student health are under way at the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin. As I have indicated in the report of this committee, Michigan has already done a splendid work, without exception, I think, so far the best of any institution reporting, although Minnesota, with its new health program, bids fair to set the standard.

One question which the University of Iowa will meet during the coming year or two will be to so organize the health fee that it shall become practically a hospital insurance fee, and shall provide for all hospital and medical treatment for students who need same. We thought it wise to begin on a small scale in order to provide an adequate fund for operation so that it will eventually become a system of student hospital insurance.

Another result of our experience in the University of Iowa has been that of an infirmary for students separate from a University Hospital attached to the Medical College, where such hospital

and college exists, is very undesirable. In many institutions the student health fee provides for what might be termed a "Contract Surgeon" or physician. The plan in the University of Iowa will be to use to the largest degree the valuable skilled training of the heads of departments in the University for all cases that need their attention, and any hospital or infirmary erected for students should be under the direct charge of the University hospital. Provision should be made for students to use such infirmary either for mild illness or for longer and more serious cases, but it has seemed to be a mistake to separate the care of student health from a medical college or hospital where such exist. Of course in the cases of institutions not supporting a college of medicine, the care of student health must be upon a different basis and the infirmary in all probability open to local practice. In such cases it would be doubtful as to whether a plan of health insurance could be devised which would guarantee medical and surgical treatment of a superior quality, altho hospital insurance might very well be a part of the health plan.

STUDENT STANDARDS, by Dean Coulter

Dean Coulter began by pointing out the great displacement of ethical standards and values in the public mind today as compared with a few years since, and considered it only natural that we should find a reflect of these things among students. We can pardon their shortcomings more readily that we could do if their elders were setting them a better example.

Students have caught the idea that youth is after all the ultimate hope of the world. It was youth which was called upon in the time of great need to go forth and die if need be that the nation might live. They went and submitted to every requirement of a rigorous discipline for the duration of the war, but now, returned to civilian life, they are more restive and impatient than ever before of restraints.

But this restlessness and impatience is unfortunately accompanied by a lowering of standards of work and conduct which is deplorable. Their standards of

- (a) quality of college work are low
- (b) integrity in their work are low
- (c) ethical conduct are low

They appear to be utterly lacking in scholarly enthusiasm.

To be sure, our institutions may share blame with them in this, for we are unable at present to provide a sufficient number of adequately trained teachers who are capable of awakening scholarly enthusiasm. But even those teachers who are well trained and enthusiastic are unable to do much with the present day students. The student day standard of achievement in class room work is distressingly low. The idea seems to be to "get by", i.e., just over the dean line, this standard is customary, and felt to be respectable. Men get elected to honor societies on grades which would not have sufficed before the war; and then they often go down sadly in their work afterward.

Cons and fails apparently have no unfavorable affect upon a man's social, political or fraternity standing not upon his general respectability. The group standards, too, are low, possibly even lower than the individual standard. A large percentage of fraternity men and sorority women are delinquent at Purdue. Still these delinquents do not lose caste in any way, and their poor scholarship seems to be no handicap whatever to them in any other field. A few hopeful symptoms are perceptible, however, of late in the cancellation of pledges and even of memberships by a few fraternities because of delinquent scholarship.

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